

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman Evonne Klein; David Bayne;  
Callie Sullivan; Linda Santarella

**STAFF:** Karl Kilduff, Administrative Officer

**OTHERS:** John Van der Kieft, RTM; Robert Steeger, Public Works Director;  
Andrea Sangrey, Manager of Community Development Services;  
Jeremy Ginsberg, Planning & Zoning Administrator;  
Charlotte Suhler, DAHAC; Barbara Thorne

**CALL TO ORDER**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman Klein called the Regular Meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman Klein asked for questions and at this point there were none.

**REPORT from Robert Steeger, Public Works Director on Status of Flood Mitigation  
Projects**

Mr. Steeger said the the LaForge Road construction is underway.  
He mentioned that the Lillian Terrace and LaForge Road work is postponed due to easement  
issues. The Lillian Terrace work was added as minor flooding was uncovered.

All survey work has been done concerning town-wide drainage. He reported that FEMA models  
are, at times, outdated.

Town-wide mapping is available for sale at a nominal fee for photocopying, or 60 cents per page

1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman Klein asked if ready for the DEP meeting, and if any problems are anticipated.  
Mr. Steeger answered in the affirmative on being ready for the meeting and that comments  
brought to his attention have been dealt with. He feels prepared.

Ms. Sullivan asked if the Hydraulic study has been completed.  
Mr. Steeger replied, "No." He mentioned that the study should be finalized soon.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT**

She reported that the Hollow Tree Ridge Road Bridge is closed. She plans to attend the meeting that is scheduled with the Contractor during the week of January 26.

She reported that the SWRPA breakfast was last week.

In the Packet were items for concern as follows:

State rail and bus systems.

Affordable Housing – incentives to *live and work* in the same community.

Improve government efficiency.

The ombudsman position idea has been rejected within the Department of Transportation.

Provide communities with emergency numbers, reverse 911. Many communities share this information.

There was a discussion to share services on a regional level such as the Health Department.

In Hartford, their priorities are funding for housing and security, Ms. Klein reported.

There are concerns from residents on Flood projects. The town is 'shovel ready' when dollars become available. Plans have been fully designed and permitted.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectwomen Klein reported on the success of the Library opening. That 7200 people passed through the doors last Saturday, January 10. Overall, people seemed very happy and pleased with the construction.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

The State is the paying agent for grants. Mr. Kilduff reported that the senior center project grant was received. The program commences on Wednesday and is in effect through April. Fitness and wellness programs are being supported by this grant.

Mr. Kilduff said that a Transfer needs to be added to the agenda. He distributed the one-page document for review and consideration.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectwomen Klein asked about the status of a Planner for the 'Best Use' Study. Mr. Kilduff said he has a firm that will provide an analysis.

Ms. Klein asked if it will include an economic analysis and Mr. Kilduff answered in the affirmative. He was quoted \$9,000 for the study. Properties are to be appraised and evaluated for best use of, or an alternate use such as offices.

Mr. Kilduff requested a Transfer of \$9,000 to pay for the Study.

Mrs. Santarella suggested that this be delayed until after the RFP meeting.

Mr. Bayne does not believe that an outside Consultant needs to be hired to do the economic analysis study.

If RFP's work out, then the Town is ready to go forward.

Mrs. Santarella believes the Board has done a very good job addressing concerns as relates to the revitalization of existing buildings.

Mr. Kilduff said he will get a "Scope of Work" from the Consultant.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a) Discuss Draft Affordable Housing Plan**

Much discussion ensued on the Affordable Housing Plan. A page by page review took place.

Mr. Bayne made a point of saying that Darien needs to show Hartford that they are taking the Affordable Housing Plan work seriously. Darien needs to show good faith. He noted that the 8-30g does not work well for Darien. The Statute is a "one size" fits all, but that is not a good fit for Darien. There is virtually no affordable housing. He said that Darien is not opposed to the Plan.

He further stated that the town has addressed affordable housing for over fifty years. The residents want and need it. There is an aging population within Darien.

High priced real estate works against affordable housing development.

Charlotte Suhler remarked that Darien is 95% built out, and that there is no open space. Mr. Bayne added that Darien is 14 square miles.

Ms. Sullivan interjected that because there is four-acre zoning, it could be perceived as open space.

Mrs. Santarella said that some do not understand the Statute.

There was much talk of the Mission Statement. It should have a positive tone, and to most it does not present that way.

Most felt there is a negative spin in the verbiage. It is suggested by Ms. Santarella to take out the second point that references 8-30g, which has a negative connotation.

Mr. Bayne also believes the 8-30g reference in the Mission Statement has a negative aspect and that it should come out.

However, Ms. Sullivan felt the statement is good and that it should remain intact.

Mr. Van de Kieft said that the Mission Statement is broad and that there is certainly time to formulate and revise it, if need be.

Mr. Bayne posed the question, "Who are we writing this document for?" "The town has to live by this for years to come."

Mrs. Santarella liked the Policy Statement on page 3. She believes it "says it all".

Ms. Sullivan suggested that in the strategic plan that is five-fold, point four (4) should be revised to add the 'workforce population'.

Mr. Ginsberg agreed, along with Ms. Sangrey, to re-write and re-work the draft of the Affordable Housing Plan to incorporate the suggestions being made.

Mr. Ginsberg also said concerning 35 Leroy Avenue, that he will take out the reference to 19 units and refer to the number as a range of 15-20 as referenced on page 12. This was suggested by Mrs. Santarella.

Mr. Ginsberg pointed out on page 12 that Care Ventures was not approved. Allen O'Neill is up for approval on January 13.

Ms. Sullivan suggested that the Moratorium Q & A be moved to the back of the report which is presently on page 15. Mrs. Santarella and Mr. Bayne both agreed to the change.

Mrs. Santarella re-stated from an earlier meeting that the section titled "What If Darien Does Nothing?" on page 17 be changed to "Risks of Doing Nothing".

1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman Klein said this Plan should be discussed again at the next meeting on January 27.

She asked Mr. Van der Kieft if he had any comments. He said that he only received a copy of the draft report today and would need to read it before commenting.

It was agreed that edits need to be made to the report and Mr. Ginsberg agreed to make the changes that were discussed and suggested.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman Klein thanked Mr. Ginsberg and Ms. Sangrey for their hard work in preparing this report.

### **AGENDA REVIEW**

- \*\* 1<sup>ST</sup> SELECTWOMAN MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD A TRANSFER REQUEST.**
- \*\* MS. SULLIVAN SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

January 13, 2009	Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
January 13, 2009	Planning & Zoning General Meeting at 8:00 P.M.
January 20, 2009	Board of Finance Regular Meeting at 6:30 P.M.
January 21, 2009	Parks & Recreation Regular Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
January 26, 2009	RTM Meeting at 8:15 P.M.
January 27, 2009	Board of Selectmen Regular meeting at 8:00 P.M.
January 27, 2009	Planning & Zoning Public Hearing at 8:00 P.M.
January 27, 2009	Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **TRANSFER REQUEST**

**From:**

**To:**

<b>Acct. No.</b>	<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>		<b>Acct. No.</b>	<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
10102011-81001	Adminis. Officer-Full time	6,380		10102031-81001	Human Resources-Full Time	6,380
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,380</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,380</b>

This above transfer pertains to the sharing of one secretarial position between the Administrative Officer and the Human Resources Department. The initial transfer resulted in too much being transferred to the Administrative Officer's Accounts and too little transferred to the Human Resources accounts. This transfer is necessary to correct the situation.

- \*\* 1st SELECTWOMAN KLEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ABOVE TRANSFER REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,380.**
- \*\* MRS. SANTARELLA SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* 1<sup>ST</sup> SELECTWOMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- \*\* MS. SULLIVAN SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hohlweck  
Telesco Secretarial Services